



Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



AUGUST 8, 2003

Hot News!

McCollum Announces Community Funding

The office of Rep. Betty McCollum informed St. Paul city officials this week that the city will receive \$670,000 in federal housing appropriations to continue efforts to acquire and rehabilitate housing in the Ames Lake neighborhood.

The Ames Lake Neighborhood project consists of more than 400 affordable rental units, covering four city blocks. Over the past 40 years, poor management and maintenance of the project has resulted in chronic overcrowding, physical and economic isolation and frequent police calls.

For the past five years, the City of St. Paul has aggressively implemented a 40-acre plan to improve the area, restore wetlands, make public improvements and build new and improve existing housing. The McCollum funding will assist in acquiring and rehabilitating the next phase of Ames Lake known as Phalen Place Apartments.

Earlier this year, the House passed Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations legislation that included \$67,500 in funding for the St. Paul YWCA for facilities renovations and expansion. The YWCA recently received the funding from this legislation.

In addition, McCollum announced this week that Great River Greening will receive a \$50,000 grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. The funding will support the conservation organization's *Bucks and Buckthorn: Engaging Young Hunters in Restoration* project.

"I am very pleased to announce this funding. Families and young people will benefit from these federal investments in our communities," McCollum said.



Florence Tantoh, Principal of Tri-District Community Culture/Environmental Sciences School in Maplewood discussed the importance of parent and community involvement in educating children with Rep. Betty McCollum.

US Delegation Denied Access to Russian Shipyard

Rep. Betty McCollum and a bipartisan delegation of US House Members and staff were blocked this week a matter of hours before they were due to enter the Nerpa Shipyard in Murmansk, Russia where workers are dismantling decommissioned Russian nuclear submarines with the help of US monetary involvement through the Arctic Military Environmental Cooperation Program (AMEC). McCollum's delegation visit was scheduled weeks in advance to observe the progress at the facility.

"This incident is very disappointing. The intent of our visit was to strengthen our relationship with the Russian government and help them with this international problem. This decommissioning work is too important to be threatened by this event. I am committed to working with the Norwegian and Russian governments to continue this relationship," McCollum said.

AMEC is a multilateral program financed by the US, Russia, Norway and the UK. AMEC addresses the effects of radioactive waste on human health and the environment in the Arctic, the decommissioning of nuclear-powered submarines, and the role of environmental risk assessments. The Nerpa Shipyard is among several projects in which AMEC funding and support is targeted.

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html

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Prepared at government expense.